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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 21 December 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General, and has the honour to transmit herewith a protest note dated 15 December 2012 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia addressed to the United Nations Secretariat (see annex).

The letter was issued in response to a letter dated 17 November 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the maritime baselines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that were deposited with the United Nations on 5 March 2010.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a).

(*Signed*) Abdulmohsen **Alyas**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 21 December 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to refer to the note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Ref. No. WK confidential 3/6/1-181 dated 21 Dhu'lhijjah A.H. 1432 (17 November A.D. 2011), that was addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. That note concerns the maritime baselines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that were deposited with the United Nations on 5 March 2010.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms what was stated in its note No. 92/18/217782 dated 13 Rajab A.H. 1432 (15 June A.D. 2011), addressed to the United Nations Secretariat, to the effect that the maritime baselines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf, including the baselines set forth in table No. 3, that was issued by Decision No. 15 of the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dated 25 Muharram A.H. 1431 (11 January A.D. 2010), and approved by Royal Decree No. 4/m dated 26 Muharram A.H. 1431 (12 January A.D. 2010), accord exactly with the rules of international law and State practice, and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rejects the claims of the Government of the United Arab Emirates in that regard.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia further reaffirms what was stated in its note No. 92/18/164063 dated 26 Jumada I A.H. 1432 (30 April A.D. 2011), namely, that the agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates over the delimitation of their mutual land and maritime boundaries, which was signed on 3 Sha'ban A.H. 1394 (21 August A.D. 1974), is a binding international agreement that is in force and was deposited with the United Nations on 9 September 1993.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates its rejection of the claims of the United Arab Emirates with regard to the maritime baselines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf, and demands that the United Arab Emirates should honour all the provisions of the aforementioned 1974 agreement between the two countries over the delimitation of their mutual land and maritime boundaries. It asserts that the maritime region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia off its shore in Adid Governorate extends to the middle of the Arabian Gulf, as is set forth in article 5 of the agreement, and in accordance with international law. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has on several occasions asked for a meeting with the United Arab Emirates in order to complete implementation of the above-mentioned agreement, but has received no response. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has affirmed that in the notes that it addressed to the Government of the United Arab Emirates, Nos. 97/18/85941 dated 1 Jumada II A.H. 1424 (30 July A.D. 2003); 97/18/26145877 dated 3 Dhu'lhijjah A.H. 1426 (3 January A.D. 2006); and 7/2/1/51363 and 7/2/1/1344 dated 14 Safar A.H. 1426 (8 January A.D. 2012).

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the present note as an official document and requests the United Nations Secretariat to register, publish, and circulate it to all Members, in accordance with United Nations practice.